

# Link to Liturgy



## 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time Eye for an Eye

### Lessons and Discussions

**Page 7 – Overview of Islam**

**Page 13 – Jesus vs. Muhammad**

*“Eye for an Eye”*

**Page 16 – Islam and Peace**

*“You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.”*

**Page 19 – Loving Your Enemies**

*“But I say to you, love your enemies”*

**Page 23 – Path of Perfection**

*“So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect”*

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**Entrance Antiphon (Ps 13:6) – Roman Missal**

*Should be chanted three times so that the time of prayer, study and discussion can be made sacred. Another song can be substituted, but should have the same theme; this should not be the norm.*

*Domine, in tua misericordia*

*Ps 13 (12): 6*

V

O Lord, I have placed my trust in your merciful love; \* my heart has rejoiced in your salvation. I will sing unto the Lord who has dealt bountifully with me.

**Source:** <http://www.ccwatershed.org/>

**Alternate options:**Hymns

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven  
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy  
Ubi caritas

**Collect – Roman Missal**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that, always pondering spiritual things,  
we may carry out in both word and deed  
that which is pleasing to you.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hardon, Modern Catholic Dictionary pg. 415

Hardon, Modern Catholic Dictionary pg. 415

CCC 1698

LG 48 # 3.

LG 11 # 3.

cf. Mt. 16:18-20

CCC 2842

GS 15 # 2.

CCC 1693

CCC 1953

CCC 1804

CCC 1770

CCC 1775 – Moral perfection

CCC 2013

CCC 2014

CCC 1832

St. Gregory of Nyssa, De vita Mos.: PG 44, 300D

CCC 2015

R. Give me strength against thine enemies.

Let us pray. Grant, O merciful God, defense to our weakness; that we who now celebrate the memory of the holy Mother of God may, by the aid of her intercession, rise again from our sins. Amen

**“The End” Notes**

<http://www.bombaxo.com/blog/?p=210>  
 Catholic Answers Book pg. 7  
 Galatians 1:6-8  
 Islam 101, Gregory M. Davis  
 Ibid.  
 Catholic Answers Book, pg. 23  
 CCC 841  
 Anne W. Carroll, Christ the King Lord of History, pg. 134  
 Anne W. Carroll, Christ the King Lord of History, pg. 134  
 Catholic Answers Book pg. 10  
 Anne W. Carroll, Christ the King Lord of History, pg. 135  
 Anne W. Carroll, Christ the King Lord of History, pg. 135  
 Anne W. Carroll, Christ the King Lord of History, pg. 137  
 Matthew 26:52  
 Luke 23:34  
 Catholic answers book pg. 37  
 Steve Weidenkopf & Dr. Alan Schreck, Epic: A Journey through Church History, pg. 135  
 Islam 101 by Gregory M. Davis  
 Anne W. Carroll, Christ the King Lord of History, pg. 135  
 Yunis Al-Astal Member of Hamas, April 2008  
 Islam 101 by Gregory M. Davis  
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 Islam 101 by Gregory M. Davis  
 LG 16; cf. NA 3.  
 Lev. 24:19-20  
 Divine Intimacy, pg. 239  
 Fernandez, In Conversation with God 3, 52.2  
 cf. St. Gregory Nazianzen, Prayer, 17:9  
 CCC 1827  
 CCC 2303  
 CCC 1825  
 CCC 2844  
 ibid.  
 Divine Intimacy, pg. 239  
 Footnotes NAB 5:43-48  
 CCC 2828  
 Ephesians 4:26-27  
 CCC 2302  
 J. Escriva, Friends of God, 9  
 Fernandez, In Conversation with God 3, 52.1  
 Divine Intimacy, pg. 239

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
 Amen

**Gospel Reading – Matthew 5:38-48 – Roman Missal**

**NOTE:** *In the Roman Catholic Tridentine Lectionary this Gospel is on Friday after Ash Wednesday*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
 - Glory to you O Lord

Jesus said to his disciples:

“You have heard that it was said,  
*An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.*  
 But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil.  
 When someone strikes you on your right cheek,  
 turn the other one as well.  
 If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic,  
 hand over your cloak as well.  
 Should anyone press you into service for one mile,  
 go for two miles.  
 Give to the one who asks of you,  
 and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.

“You have heard that it was said,  
*You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.*  
 But I say to you, love your enemies  
 and pray for those who persecute you,  
 that you may be children of your heavenly Father,  
 for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good,  
 and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.  
 For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you  
 have?  
 Do not the tax collectors do the same?  
 And if you greet your brothers only,  
 what is unusual about that?  
 Do not the pagans do the same?  
 So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
 - Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

**Spiritual Reading**

*From St John of Damascus on Islam by Kevin P. Edgecomb[1]*  
**Please Note:** *St. John of Damascus was born in 676AD, 44 years*

*after the dead of Muhammad.*

And there is also the up until now strong and people-deceiving superstition of the Ishmaelites, being the forerunner of Antichrist. And it is born from Ishmael, who was born from Hagar to Abraham, from which they are called Hagarenes and Ishmaelites. And they call them Saracens, as from Σαρρας κενoi (those empty of Sarah), because of what was said by Hagar to the angel: “Sarah has sent me away empty.” So then, these were idolaters and revered the morning star and Aphrodite, who they indeed named Khabar in their own language, which means great. Therefore, until the time of Heraclius, they were plainly idolaters. From that time and until now came up among them a false prophet called Mamed, who, having encountered the Old and New Testament, as it seems, having conversed with an Arian monk, he put together his own heresy. And under the pretext of seeming pious, attracting (?) people, he reported that a book was sent down to him from heaven by God. Therefore some of the compositions written by him in a book, worthy of laughter, which he handed down to them as an object of reverence.

He says there is one God, the Maker of all things, neither having been begotten nor having begotten. He says Christ is the Word of God and His Spirit, only a creation and servant, and that he was born without seed from Mary the sister of Moses and Aaron. For he says the Word of God and the Spirit went into Mary and she bore Jesus who was a prophet and servant of God. And that the Jews, acting against the law, wanted to crucify him and having seized (him), they crucified his shadow. For Christ himself, they say, was not crucified nor did he die, for God took him to himself into heaven because he loved him.


And he says this, that when Christ went up into the heavens, God questioned him, saying, “O Jesus, did you say that I am the Son of God and God?” And Jesus, they say, answered, “Have mercy on me, O Lord; you know that I did not say (that), nor am I too proud to be your servant, but men who have turned aside wrote that I said this word and lied about me, and are wandering.” And God, they say, answered him, “I know that you did not say this word.” And many other astonishing sayings in this same writing, worthy of laughter, he boasts God sent down to him.

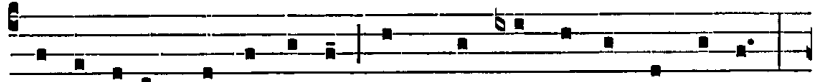
But we say, “And who is the witness that God gave the writing to him, or which of the prophets foretold that such a prophet would

Master, grant that I may not seek so much to be consoled as to console; to be understood and to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

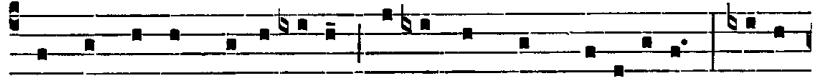
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

### Marian Antiphon – Ave Regina Caelorum

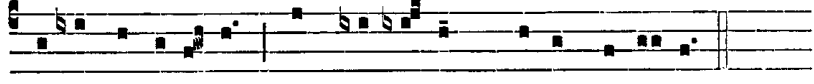
6.  **A** -ve Regína caelórum, \* Ave Dómina Ange-lórum :



Sálve rádix, sálve pórtá, Ex qua mundo lux est órta :



Gáude Vírgo glo-ri- ósa, Su-per ómnes spe-ci- ósa : Vále,



o valde decó-ra, Et pro nó-bis Chrístum exó-ra.

V. Dignare me laudare te Virgo sacrata.  
R. Da mihi virtutem contra hostes tuos.

### English Translation

Hail, Queen of Heaven; hail, Mistress of the Angels; hail, root of Jesse; hail, the gate through which the Light rose over the earth.

Rejoice, Virgin most renowned and of unsurpassed beauty.  
Farewell, Lady most comely. Prevail upon Christ to pity us.

V. Let me praise thee, most holy Virgin.

bestow on us Sacraments, which were established by Jesus. Spiritual progress tends toward ever more intimate union with Christ. This union is called ‘mystical’ because it participates in the mystery of Christ through the sacraments – ‘the holy mysteries’ - and, in him, in the mystery of the Holy Trinity. God calls us all to this intimate union with him, even if the special graces or extraordinary signs of this mystical life are granted only to some for the sake of manifesting the gratuitous gift given to all.”[56] By living within Christ and His bride, the Church; living in the Sacraments we can begin to grow in virtue. When we grow in virtue we grow the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. These Fruits of the Holy Spirit help us on our path to perfection. “The fruits of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory. the tradition of the Church lists twelve of them: ‘charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity.’”[57]

**Is there any limit to becoming perfect?** St. Gregory of Nyssa said it best, “Christian perfection has but one limit, that of having none”[58]. The only limits to perfection are the ones we set on ourselves. Live heroically! As Pope Saint John Paul II said, “Do not be afraid to become the Saints of the new millennium!” “The way of perfection passes by way of the Cross. There is no holiness without renunciation and spiritual battle. Spiritual progress entails the access and mortification that gradually lead to living in the peace and joy of the Beatitudes: He who climbs never stops going from beginning to beginning, through beginnings that have no end. He never stops desiring what he already knows.”[59]

### **Profession of Faith or Popular Devotion – Franciscan Prayer**

This prayer also called the Prayer of Saint Francis can be found on page 31 of the *Oratory: Place of Prayer Book*. To purchase the *Oratory: Place of Prayer Book* - <http://remnantband.bandcamp.com/merch>

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine

arise?” And they are at a loss, as Moses received on Mount Sinai, in the sight of all the people, the Law of God who appeared in cloud and fire and darkness and storm. And that all the prophets, from Moses and onward, foretold the coming of Christ, and that Christ is God, and the Son of God, being flesh, will come, and will be crucified, and will die, and will rise again, and he will be the judge of the living and the dead. And we say, “Why did your prophet not come in this way, with others witnessing about him, nor coming among you as God gave the Law to Moses on a smoking mountain with all the people watching, and, as you claim, provide this book, so you also might have certainty?” They answer that God does as he wills. We know this too, we say. But, we ask, how did the writing come down to your prophet? And they answer that while he was asleep the writing came upon him. And we jokingly say to them that since he received the writing while sleeping, and did not sense the activity, in him is fulfilled the popular proverb (“You are spinning me dreams”).

Again we ask, “Why, when he commanded us in your writing not to do or to receive anything without witnesses, did you not ask him that ‘First you show through witnesses whether you are a prophet, and that you came from God, and which Scripture witnesses about you?’” They are silent, ashamed. To whom we say, “For good reason! Since it is not allowed for you to marry a woman without witnesses, nor to buy, nor acquire property (?), nor do you allow yourselves to have a donkey or an animal unwitnessed. For you indeed also have wives, and properties, and donkeys, and all the rest through witnesses, and you have only a faith and a writing unwitnessed. For he who handed this down to you has in no way an assurance, nor is any previous witness of him known, but he received this also while sleeping.”

And they call us *Associators*, because, they say, we introduce an associate to God by saying Christ is the Son of God and God. To whom we say that this is what the Prophets and Scripture have handed down. And you, as you insist, accept the Prophets. If, therefore, we are wrong saying Christ is the Son of God, they also are who taught and handed it down to us. And some of them indeed say that we have allegorized the Prophets, imputing (sayings) to them. Others say that the Hebrews, hating (us), have deceived us, having written as from the Prophets, so that we might be destroyed.

And again we say to them, “You say that Christ is the Word of

God and the Spirit. How then do you rebuke us as ‘Associators’? For the Word and the Spirit are each of them unseparated from Him in Whom they have been born. If, therefore, in God is His Word, it is obvious he is also God. But if he is outside of God, as according to you, God is irrational (αλογος) and lifeless (ανους). Therefore, in avoiding to associate with God, you have mutilated him. But it would be better for you to say that he has an associate than to mutilate him, and represent him like a stone, or wood, or any of those insensible things. Thus, indeed, falsely accusing us, you call us ‘Associators.’ But we call you ‘Mutilators of God.’”

They also accuse us as idolaters for reverencing the Cross, which they despise. And we say to them, “Why, therefore, do you rub yourselves against the stone by your Khabathan, and love kissing the stone?” And some of them say Abraham had relations with Hagar upon it, and others that he tied up the camel around it when about to sacrifice Isaac. And we respond to them, “The Scripture says that there was a mountain like a grove, and wood from which also Abraham cut for the whole burnt offering on which he laid Isaac, and that he left the donkeys with the servants. Therefore, from what source is your foolish saying? For there is no wood of a forest lying in that place, nor travelling by donkeys.” They are indeed ashamed. Nevertheless, they say the stone is of Abraham. Then we say, “If it is of Abraham, as you foolishly say, therefore are you not ashamed, kissing this thing only because Abraham had relations with a woman upon it, or that he tied up a camel? But you censure us because we show reverence to the Cross of Christ through which the strength of the demons and the deceit of the Accuser is destroyed?” And this thing which they say is a stone is the head of Aphrodite which they revered, who they also called Khabar, upon which also even up to now the shadow of an inscription appears to careful observers.

As we have said, this Mamed composed many foolish sayings, and he laid upon each of them a title, like the writing “The Women,” in which also he plainly legislates (for a man) to take four wives and one thousand concubines if he is able, however many he might put under his hand, aside from the four wives. And he legislated to divorce whichever one he wishes, or if he wishes, also to take care of another, for this very reason: Mamed had a companion named Zeïd. This one had a beautiful wife, whom Mamed loved. Therefore, when they were sitting together, Mamed said, “Oh, by the way, God has ordered me to take your wife.” And he answered, “You are the Apostle; do as God has

according to reason and faith. They make possible ease, self-mastery, and joy in leading a morally good life. The virtuous man is he who freely practices the good. The moral virtues are acquired by human effort. They are the fruit and seed of morally good acts; they dispose all the powers of the human being for communion with divine love.”[52]

**How do we gain moral perfection?** Moral perfection solely relies on us striving for holiness. We must be moved within our hearts and souls to what is truly good. “Moral perfection consists in man's being moved to the good not by his will alone, but also by his sensitive appetite, as in the words of the psalm: ‘My heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.’”[53], “*The perfection of the moral good consists in man's being moved to the good not only by his will but also by his "heart."*”[54]

**What if someone is not even on the road to perfection?** We are all on a road: either the road to life or the road to death there is not middle ground. Staying stagnate, and not moving is dying. We must remind ourselves, and those around us that we can turn around. We can put the “car” in reverse sort of speak. We can get back on the path, which leads us to life. “All Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of charity.’ All are called to holiness: ‘Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.’ In order to reach this perfection the faithful should use the strength dealt out to them by Christ's gift, so that . . . doing the will of the Father in everything, they may wholeheartedly devote themselves to the glory of God and to the service of their neighbor. Thus the holiness of the People of God will grow in fruitful abundance, as is clearly shown in the history of the Church through the lives of so many saints.”[55]

#### **MUSIC – “Always” by Switchfoot – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 4:16**

<http://youtu.be/85vi2pB1T5c>

The song is about always being God's. Even when we choose not to always be with Him, God is always with us. The powerful moment is in the lyrics “every breath is a second chance”. We should always remember that we are just a breath away from being back on the road to perfection, and back on the road to always be with God.

**How do we stay on the path of perfection?** Jesus Christ left us with an amazing Church. Within the Church, She is able to

**How can the Church be perfect if there are only sinners in the Church?** The Second Vatican Council speaks on this question. “The Church on earth is endowed already with a sanctity that is real though imperfect.”[45] “In her members perfect holiness is something yet to be acquired: “Strengthened by so many and such great means of salvation, all the faithful, whatever their condition or state - though each in his own way - are called by the Lord to that perfection of sanctity by which the Father himself is perfect.”[46] While the church is full of sinners, the Church Herself is sinless. It will be able to prevail over Hell as Jesus told us[47]. The Church is Holy and perfect because She is guided by the Holy Spirit.

**How do we become perfect?** The more we are willing to become one with the Church, the more we are willing to become one with Christ who is the Head of the Church. “This ‘as’ is not unique in Jesus’ teaching: ‘You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect’; ‘Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful’; ‘A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.’ It is impossible to keep the Lord’s commandment by imitating the divine model from outside; there has to be a vital participation, coming from the depths of the heart, in the holiness and the mercy and the love of our God. Only the Spirit by whom we live can make ‘ours’ the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. Then the unity of forgiveness becomes possible and we find ourselves ‘forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave’ us.”[48]

We find our perfection “in seeking and loving what is true and good.”[49] What is true and good is Jesus. “Christ Jesus always did what was pleasing to the Father, and always lived in perfect communion with him. Likewise Christ’s disciples are invited to live in the sight of the Father ‘who sees in secret,’ in order to become ‘perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.’”[50]

We become more perfect if we follow Jesus in our faith and morals. “The moral law finds its fullness and its unity in Christ. Jesus Christ is in person the way of perfection. He is the end of the law, for only he teaches and bestows the justice of God: ‘For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified.’”[51] We must be willing to work out our perfection every day of our lives. “Human virtues are firm attitudes, stable dispositions, habitual perfections of intellect and will that govern our actions, order our passions, and guide our conduct

said to you. Take my wife.” Or rather, so we might tell it from the beginning, he said to him, “God has ordered me, that you divorce your wife” And he divorced. And after several days, he says, “But God has ordered that I will also take her.” Then he took (her) and committed adultery with her (and) made this law: “He who wills may divorce his wife, but if after divorcing, he would return to her, another must marry her; for it is not allowed to take (her back) if she has not been married by another. And even if a brother divorces, let his brother marry her, if he is willing.” And in the same writing, he transmits this message: “Plough the land which God has given to you, and beautify it” and do this, and in this way—so I might not say all the obscene things as he did.

#### **Responsory – Divine Office - Eccl. 1:14; 5:14; 1 Tim. 6:7**

I have seen everything that is done beneath the sun;  
what vanity it all is and a chasing after the wind.  
– Just as a man comes forth naked from his mother’s womb,  
so he will go forth naked in the end;  
there is nothing which he can take away with him.

We brought nothing with us when we came into the world,  
and we can take nothing with us when we go.  
– Just as a man comes forth naked from his mother’s womb,  
so he will go forth naked in the end;  
there is nothing which he can take away with him.

#### **Overview of Islam – Lesson and Discussion**

It is important to know one’s faith. How would we be able to love and serve God if we first do not come to know Him? It is also beneficial to learn other cultures and faiths as well. If we are called to bring the Gospel to everyone that means we must reach out to even people who may have very different backgrounds. If we do not learn basics of other cultures and faiths then we will be ill equipped to meet them where they are at, and to spread the Gospel. It is also good to learn these things because we can shed light on where and how we are different and similar. Ultimately, we follow Jesus Christ who is the Son of God and came to this earth for our salvation. Before we get into the differences of Jesus and Muhammad, this lesson is to give a brief overview or synopsis of Islam.

**What is the history of Islam?** Asking this type of question is similar to asking, “what is the history of the Catholic Church”. It

is impossible to write the whole history of a major religion. We will write just the basic facts. There are plenty of great resources out there to learn more about the religion of Islam. This leads to the first thing, the name of the religion is “Islam”, and the people who follow this religion are called “Muslims”. There is a difference. The word Islam comes from the Arabic word “submission”. It means the voluntary submission of the Muslim faithful to Allah and his will. The word Muslim means “one who has submitted [to God]”. The word “submission” if broken down is two words “sub” and “mission” or under the mission. The Muslim is under the will of Allah.

**Who started Islam?** A man named Muhammad founded Islam. He was born around the year 570AD in present day Saudi Arabia. “Mohammed’s father died before he was born, and his mother died when he was young. He was raised by an uncle named Abu Talib, whose family was active in the caravan trading business.”[2] Working in the trading business led Mohammad into contact with many various religions including pagans, Christians, and Jews. He would later have a vision, according to Islam, of the angel Gabriel. He would also take on multiple wives, including marrying a six-year-old girl named Isha, and would consummate the marriage when she was nine.

**When did Islam begin?** Islam originated in the early 7<sup>th</sup> century when Muhammad was praying near Mecca and was given the first part of the Quran by the angel Gabriel. As Saint John Damascus states, there were no witnesses to this appearance. Although Gabriel appeared alone to the Blessed Virgin Mary, he also appeared to Zachariah and Joseph and confirmed what he spoke to Mary. God’s Revelation has witnesses. When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan, the people witness the voice of God from the heavens and saw the dove descend. Muhammad had no witness and reported to his wife that he was scared of the angel. When Gabriel appeared to Mary, Zachariah, and Joseph they were not full of terror, but instead Gabriel said “have no fear” and they came away in peace. Saint Paul warns, “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and turning to a different gospel – not that there is another gospel, but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we preached to you, let him be accursed.”[3] The angel that Muhammad saw and heard gave a gospel contrary to the gospel preached by the apostles. This verse from Galatians is

## **SPORTS – Miami Dolphins - Perfect Season – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 2:53**

[http://youtu.be/mC4Gnxt\\_2V4](http://youtu.be/mC4Gnxt_2V4)

There has only been one undefeated team in NFL history, the 1972 Miami Dolphins. In the video one of the players spoke about not realizing the heights of greatness they achieved. When we are on the path of perfection we can sometimes do things that we never knew we were capable of. We can achieve great things only in and through Christ.

### **Discuss: Of the four videos, which one do you think is the hardest to accomplish? Why?**

**Is anyone perfect?** There are two people that we know without a doubt who are perfect: Jesus and Mary. Other than that, we all have sinned and fallen short. This does not mean we should stay down, but get back up to get back on the road to perfection.

**What should we say to people who say “nobody’s perfect!” or “I’m not perfect.”?** We should say “You’re right. Nobody is perfect, except Jesus and Mary, but we should be striving for perfection!” or “You may not be perfect, but you should be moving towards perfection.” Many times people use those sayings as a crutch or an excuse as to why they are failing. We have smeared the perfect image that God has placed in us, but we can make it perfect if we stay close to Him.

**Where do we find our perfection?** We find our perfection in Jesus and the Church He gave us. “The first and last point of reference of this catechesis will always be Jesus Christ himself, who is ‘the way, and the truth, and the life.’ It is by looking to him in faith that Christ’s faithful can hope that he himself fulfills his promises in them, and that, by loving him with the same love with which he has loved them, they may perform works in keeping with their dignity: I ask you to consider that our Lord Jesus Christ is your true head, and that you are one of his members. He belongs to you as the head belongs to its members; all that is his is yours: his spirit, his heart, his body and soul, and all his faculties. You must make use of all these as of your own, to serve, praise, love, and glorify God. You belong to him, as members belong to their head. and so he longs for you to use all that is in you, as if it were his own, for the service and glory of the Father.”[44]



**What is perfection?** Perfection is “That in which nothing is lacking which, according to its nature, it should possess. That is absolutely perfect, which in itself has all possible excellence and excludes all deficiencies. Only God is absolutely perfect. That is relatively perfect which has a finite nature and possesses all the advantages corresponding to its nature. The Church teaches that God is infinite in every perfection. Creatures are as perfect as they are like God, and moral perfection consists in becoming like Christ, who is infinite God in human form.”[43]

**SPORTS – Matt Cain Perfect Game – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 4:58**

<http://youtu.be/ANccbJagUwU>

There have only been less than 30 perfect games in baseball history. A perfect game in baseball is when the pitcher is able to get all 27 batters out with no walks or hits. Obviously to pitch a perfect game there has to be a total team effort. For us to be on the path of perfection we have Mary, our Saints, and angels on our team helping us to perfection.

**SPORTS – Red Sox 2004 Comeback – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 9:48**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fcBxzaldeY&feature=share&list=PLBdAwBCQ6pJJrZHsJCS9FHQLHtzZhfQtt>

Never in baseball history had there been a team to even force a game 7 after losing the first three straight games. The Boston Red Sox in 2004 were down 3-0, and then in four straight nights won all four games to go to the World Series where they won their first Championship in over eighty years. They kept fighting, believing, and never giving up. On our path to perfection we must be resilient and never give up even if we feel we are at our last out. We must keep fighting believing, and never give up.

**SPORTS – PBA Bowling Butch Sopher’s 300 Game – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 4:00**

[http://youtu.be/rtRW\\_tfWuMo](http://youtu.be/rtRW_tfWuMo)

A perfect game in bowling is when you are able to make 12 strikes in a row. A strike is when you are able to knock down all the pins in one try per round. The nerves of getting close to a perfect 300 game can be a lot. The silence and concentration on the bowler to make sure nothing changes. For our path to perfection, we should strive to not change the things that bring us closer to God and perfection.

painted on the wall of the Catholic Cathedral in Salt Lake City. Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism also was given a gospel by an angel and like Muhammad, the gospel contradicted the gospel preached by the apostles.

**What is the Quran?** The Quran is one of four principal sources of Islamic belief and practice. “According to Islamic teaching, the Quran came down as a series of revelations from Allah through the Archangel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad, who then dictated it to his followers. Muhammad's companions memorized fragments of the Quran and wrote them down on whatever was at hand, which were later compiled into book form under the rule of the third Caliph, Uthman, some years after Muhammad's death. The Quran is about as long as the Christian New Testament. It comprises 114 suras (not to be confused with the Sira, which refers to the life of the Prophet) of varying lengths, which may be considered chapters. According to Islamic doctrine, it was around 610 AD in a cave near the city of Mecca (now in southwest Saudi Arabia) that Muhammad received the first revelation from Allah by way of the Archangel Gabriel. The revelation merely commanded Muhammad to "recite" or "read" (Sura 96); the words he was instructed to utter were not his own but Allah's. Over the next twelve or so years in Mecca, other revelations came to Muhammad that constituted a message to the inhabitants of the city to forsake their pagan ways and turn in worship to the one Allah.”[4] The other three major sources are Tradition of what Mohammed said or did; the consensus of scholars; and the individual thought.

**What are the essential doctrines of Islam?** One God (but not three persons, just the Father); Angels; Three Prophets – Abraham, Jesus and Mohammed (Jesus is not God and Mohammed is greater than Jesus); Belief in the Koran; The rising on the Last Day; A rejection of free will.[5]

**What are the essential practices of a Muslim?** The basic tenants of the Islam is “There is no god but God, and Mohammed is his prophet.” This saying is prayed several times every day. The five pillars of Islam constitute the most basic tenets of the religion. They are: 1. Faith (iman) in the oneness of Allah and the finality of the prophethood of Muhammad (indicated by the declaration [the Shahadah] that, "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah"). 2. Keeping of the five scheduled daily prayers (salah). 3. Almsgiving

(zakat). 4. Fasting (sawm). 5. Pilgrimage (hajj) to Mecca for those who are able. Some add a sixth tenet, a Jihad.

**What is jihad?** Jihad is Arabic for “struggle”. There are two levels to the term jihad. The first is the internal jihad, or struggle between man and the devil; to conquer the soul to the will of Allah. The other level is the outward struggle between Muslims and non-believers. This is what Mohammad told his followers to do whenever possible as he did. “This struggle may be internal – a battle with personal sin – but often it has taken the form of armed violence. All are agreed that the use of arms to defend the Islamic community is a duty of all Muslims, but some argue that this duty should be reckoned as a pillar alongside the other five.”[6]

**What is the Church’s relationship with the Muslims?** “The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind’s judge on the last day. (Lumen Gentium 16)”[7] Although the Muslims “adore the one, merciful God” they are mistaken about who it is that they adore. In other words, they know not who they adore. They either have not been given the full revelation of God or they have rejected the full revelation of God. In the case of Muhammad, their founder, he rejected the doctrines of the Trinity and the Incarnation, both of which are revelations of the true God. It is important to understand that Muhammad’s rejection of the Trinity and Incarnation was a rejection based on the information given to him mostly by Arians, who rejected both the Trinity and Incarnation. It is likely that Muhammad, like many Catholic and Non-Catholics, was never catechized (instructed) well. The Church sees that there are elements in Islam that are preparation of the Gospel, there is the expectation then for us to evangelize to Muslims teaching them the fullness of truth with the expectation that where there is falsehood, they move from falsehood to truth and where there is truth they move from partial truth to the fullness of truth.

**Are Jews, Muslims, and Christians all descendants of Abraham, what is the difference?** God chose to establish His Covenant with Abraham and promised him that he would be the father of nations, and that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. There was one problem with this: Abraham and Sarah had no children and Sarah was

measures, but peaceful resistance. He was not a pacifist, he was non-violent.

**VIDEO - Dr. King: Nonviolence is the Most Powerful Weapon – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 8:13**

<http://youtu.be/74XJJ3Tq5ew>

This interview MLK sits to an interview where he speaks at length of Nonviolence, and even speaks of today’s Gospel reading.

**VIDEO - Gandhi Biography – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 2:57**

[http://youtu.be/\\_-QoW3\\_jOZM](http://youtu.be/_-QoW3_jOZM)

The video speaks of Gandhi’s life, and how he helped liberate the country of India from England by a means of non-violent civil disobedience.

**VIDEO – 40 Days for Life: Planned Parenthood closes in Kalispell, MT – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 9:54**

[http://youtu.be/kd8N\\_baKbFY](http://youtu.be/kd8N_baKbFY)

In today’s time, the gravest evil in our world is abortion. Many abortion mills are closing thanks in large part to the peaceful constant non-violent protests. Hundreds are being shutdown every year in America, and with God’s help abortion will be eradicated from not only the United States, but all over the world. Pray and help peacefully the end on the attack against life from the moment of conception, to natural death, and every stage in between. For the poor and the neglected. We need to be ambassadors of charity.

**Path of Perfection – Lesson and Discussion**

*“So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*

At the end of the Gospel reading, Jesus tells us to be perfect. This lesson will dive into what does Jesus mean by being perfect, and how do we strive for this perfection.

**What is “perfect”?** Perfect is, “Whole or complete. What is perfect has all the actual qualities that are proper to its nature or kind. Only God is all perfect. Creatures are more or less perfect as they are more or less what they ought to be, according to their rank or level of being, and among people, according to their age, position, or state of life. (Latin perfectus, finished, completed, from perficere, to complete)”[42]

**How can we be more charitable to all, even our enemies?**

First, and foremost above all we must not be afraid. The early martyrs were not afraid to show witness to the Truth; to shine light in the darkness. They did it with genuine love, but they never backed down. “A disciple of Christ will never treat anyone badly. Error he will call error, but he will correct the person in error with kindness. Otherwise he will not be able to help him, to sanctify him.”[39]

Practicing charity, even to our enemies, must be small and must be daily. “Most of the time the practice of charity will consist in little details, something as simple as a smile, a word of encouragement, a kind gesture...In the eyes of God all of this is very pleasing and draws us closer to Him.”[40] **Discuss other ways you can become more charitable to your enemies or your friends and family enemies.**

Lastly, we must remember that we stand in a stark contradiction to the world as Catholics. “The world considers it foolishness to return love for hate, good for evil, and forgiveness for insults; but St. Paul warns that if we want to follow Christ we must make ourselves foolish, ‘for the wisdom of this world is folly with God’ (1 Cor. 3:19), Christians are not to be preoccupied with the world because they are ‘Christ’s and Christ is God’s’ (ibid. 23); being Christ’s, they follow only his teaching, and with him and in him want to belong to God, emulating his infinite perfection and his limitless love.”[41]

**What are some present day examples of non-violent revolutions?**

Jesus tells us to “turn the other cheek”. The path of non-violence towards others was how Jesus showed His true power. The first apostles and martyrs of the Church took the same path, and it was because of their sacrifice in true charity that the Church grew. In recent history there has been other occasions where other people have taken a similar course to change the world. The biggest two were Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi.

**VIDEO – Martin Luther King Jr. Mini Bio – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 4:48**

[http://youtu.be/3ank52Zi\\_S0](http://youtu.be/3ank52Zi_S0)

The video is a short biography of Martin Luther King Jr. who was able to move the American culture into true equality between blacks and whites. He did this not through violent

barren. Instead of trusting and being obedient to God, Abraham and Sarah chose to go against God’s will and do their own will. Sarah allowed Abraham to have sexual intercourse with Hagar the servant and thus the first-born son was Ishmael. Later, as God promised, Abraham and Sarah had a son together and named him Isaac. Isaac and Ishmael were friends but Sarah became jealous of Ishmael and Hagar and banished them. Ishmael and Hagar went to Egypt and Arabia. Jews and Christians trace their roots to Isaac the chosen child. Muslims trace their roots to Ishmael the first born child.

**What religion did the people of Muhammad’s time profess?**

The History of the Arabs, descendants of Ishmael can be summed up with three points. First, they believed and followed the God of Abraham. Second, they fell into paganism. It is no surprise that a monotheistic religion would fall quickly into polytheistic paganism. The Jewish people constantly fell into paganism, but always returned due to the example of the prophets and sometimes kings. The Arabs did not have these great heroes of the faith and so they stayed in paganism. Finally, Muhammad the prophet (570-632AD) reformed the Arab people, crushing their idols and teaching the belief in one God Allah. “The people of the area were pagans – they worshiped a black stone (called the Black Stone of the Kaaba) and had many gods.”[8]

**How did Mohammed change the religion of the Middle East?**

“Mohammed was impressed with the idea of one supreme God, so much so that he rejected all idea of the Trinity and Incarnation, proclaiming that there was one God (‘Allah’ in his language), who was only one person.”[9] Mohammed brought about a reform in the Middle East which caused the people to turn from the believe in many gods (polytheism) to a believe in one God (monotheism).

**Why did Islam spread?** Islam promotes an ethical life (Muslims are very strict) this “good” life of discipline, order, prayer, etc. is welcomed by many people. There is a promised afterlife with sensual luxuries some of which are forbidden while on earth (alcohol for example). Men were allowed up to four wives and divorce was allowed. Concubines were also allowed. Holy War is permitted in the creed, which appealed to the dessert nomads who have a reason and mission to pillage and raid. Many converted out of fear of being killed by the sword. There is no pope, bishop, or priest; all people are equal and in a sense

become their own authority in the interpretation of both the Quran and Sunna. It is a simple religion of a Book (Koran), written in 600's, and Tradition (Sunna), written in the 800's. There is communication with God through prayer five times a day. The religion and the civil are combined, which makes it easy for rulers to control people. The religious and civil law is the same.

Muhammad gained a few converts here and there. Converts were either pagans, or Christians who were not orthodox in their faith, mostly Arian Christians. Muhammad fled from Mecca to Medina where his numbers began to flourish. His followers conducted raids on caravans heading to Mecca. They would attack and steal whatever they could. Muhammad began a series of battles to take over Mecca, and any enemies who were suspected to attack Muslims in Medina. He began "assassinating poets who satirized him and expelling one of three Jewish tribes in Medina. Later he expelled a second." [10] In 630AD, Muhammad and his forces were able to seize control of Mecca. Following the seize, many of the other tribes in the Arabian Peninsula gave allegiance to Islam. Muhammed would die of natural causes in 632AD. "From the beginning Mohammed was looked upon as a political leader as well as a religious prophet and gradually a feeling of Arab unity came to replace the old divisions and hatreds among [Arab] tribes. Thus Mohammed was largely responsible for the formation of a new nation." [11]

"The new religion might have died then, if it had not been for a policy adopted by Mohammed's successor, Abu Bakr, who took the title Caliph (which means Successor). Abu Bakr, declared that anyone who apostatized (rejected and left the religion) from Islam would suffer the death penalty. He went from village to village, ruthlessly enforcing his decree. Before long the apostates were all back and new apostasies ceased. This policy was enforced for centuries; and though it is rarely invoked today, anyone who considers leaving Islam faces total rejection by other Moslems, to such an extent that apostasy is still very rare." [12] Islam mission was to conquer and convert. "By 732, only 100 years after the death of the Prophet, the wild tribesmen from Arabia controlled most of the civilized world and were without doubt the strongest power in the world. The conquered people converted to Islam, thereby firmly entrenching the Moslems in the conquered areas so that they remain in most of them to this day." [13]

receive the gift of prayer. Forgiveness also bears witness that, in our world, love is stronger than sin. the martyrs of yesterday and today bear this witness to Jesus. Forgiveness is the fundamental condition of the reconciliation of the children of God with their Father and of men with one another." [32] God is stronger than Satan. "Love is stronger than sin" [33] **How quick are we to show love to our friends and family who have wronged us in the past? How quickly are we to truly love our enemies?**

**Where does it say, "love your neighbor and hate your enemy" in Scripture?** "Actually, no passage of the Bible prescribed hatred of one's enemies; it was the practical result of a mutilation of the law becoming the norm of life. Jesus confronts and totally condemns it; he had come to perfect the law, and does so in a special way in regard to charity, which man through selfishness is so much inclined to wound and adulterate." [34] This is extended to the apostles and Jesus disciples to carry on by their example. "His disciples, as children of God, must imitate the example of their Father, who grants his gifts of sun and rain to both the good and the bad." [35]

**Why do we have to be nice to those who are not fair?** This is an old cliché, but simply life is not fair. There will always be people who will abuse and take advantage of others. This does not mean we should fight it with the same evil. God rests on both the just and unjust. "Give us: the trust of children who look to their Father for everything is beautiful. 'He makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.' He gives to all the living 'their food in due season.' Jesus teaches us this petition, because it glorifies our Father by acknowledging how good he is, beyond all goodness." [36]

**Does this mean we can never be angry?** No. Evil actions should upset us, and even anger us. Anger in of itself is not a sin. St. Paul says, "Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun set on your anger, and do not leave room for the devil." [37] We can be angry at that moment, but we must not let it overtake us, otherwise Satan will have a chance to let the anger boil over. "If anger reaches the point of a deliberate desire to kill or seriously wound a neighbor, it is gravely against charity; it is a mortal sin. the Lord says, 'Everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment.'" [38]

upon them as our enemy. Our only enemy is Satan and sin, because He is the one who wants us to be separated from the love of God. “Jesus taught us to regard sin as the only true evil and to avoid considering anyone as our personal enemy, and the saints of all times have given heroic witness to these teachings.”[27]

**Why charity?** Charity inspires all other virtues. St. Gregory of Nazianzen said, “There is nothing in man more divine, more Christ like, than his meekness and patience in doing good.”[28] “The practice of all the virtues is animated and inspired by charity, which ‘binds everything together in perfect harmony’; (Col 3:14.) it is the form of the virtues; it articulates and orders them among themselves; it is the source and the goal of their Christian practice. Charity upholds and purifies our human ability to love, and raises it to the supernatural perfection of divine love.”[29] Practicing virtues animated in charity perfects everything.

**MUSIC VIDEO – “The Sound (John M. Perkins’ Blues)” by Switchfoot – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 5:04**

<http://youtu.be/mNQgABsUfK8>

The song has a powerful message: love is the final fight. There is a movement of charity rising up from the ground to bring about peace. The song speaks of the tension between the past and where we are struggling to go.

**What is the opposite of charity?** The opposite of charity is hatred. Deliberate hatred is contrary to charity. Hatred of the neighbor is a sin when one deliberately wishes him evil. Hatred of the neighbor is a grave sin when one deliberately desires him grave harm. ‘But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.’[30]

**Why should we show love to our enemies?** We show love to everyone because, “Christ died out of love for us, while we were still ‘enemies’.”[31] Jesus showed love to Judas, Pontus Pilate, the Pharisees and Sadducees, and all those who had a hand in His crucifixion. Every time we sin we pit ourselves against Jesus. Yet, every time we go back to Him in Confession, He shows love and forgiveness to us. “Christian prayer extends to the forgiveness of enemies, transfiguring the disciple by configuring him to his Master. Forgiveness is a high-point of Christian prayer; only hearts attuned to God’s compassion can

**VIDEO – History of Religions – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 2:05**

<http://youtu.be/x-sIF78QYCI>

Islam was held back and defeated only three times.

Constantinople in 718AD, Covadonga, Spain in 722AD, and France in 732AD. If Constantinople, Spain, and France would have fell, the world would be dramatically different today.

**Jesus vs. Muhammad – Lesson and Discussion**

*“Eye for an eye”*

The main point of this lesson is to see what the founders of each religion taught, believed, and lived, and what their first followers taught, believed, and lived. We look will look at Jesus and Mohammad

**Why look at Jesus and Muhammad?** We look at Jesus because we believe as Christians that He is the Son of God. He is the perfect model to live up to, and the only way to Heaven. In Islam, Muhammad is considered *al-insan al-kamil* (the "ideal man"). Muhammad is not seen as perfect or divine; this is why no image of him can be made because he is not God. Muhammad is the ideal man though, and this is why most of Sharia Law (The Law of Muslims follow) follows what Muhammad said and did. For example, Muhammad married and consummated with a nine-year-old girl. This is why today there are many countries in the Middle East that allow men to marry girls as young as nine.

**Jesus Christ**

We will first look at what Jesus said and did. He was the model of mercy and forgiveness. He met every person where they were. He was also looking out for women, the poor, and the outcast. The only time He raised His voice and could be seen as “aggressive actions” was when He drove out the money collectors from the temple. While being arrested, Jesus told Peter to put away his sword for if you live by the sword you will die by the sword[14]. Jesus, while being killed, said, “Forgive them father for they know not what they do.”[15] After Jesus’ death and resurrection, He tells them to go make disciples of all nations by baptism of water. Jesus’ followers converted hundreds of thousands by words and deeds. Many of them would be killed for their belief in Jesus, and face heavy persecutions for hundreds of years.

**Muhammad**

“Islam’s founder was a warlord, who rose from obscurity and who, in his lifetime, conquered the Arabian Peninsula. The holy book he produced is filled with commands to use violence in the service of its religion and nation. This potential for violence is similar to that possessed by Judaism except it is immensely augmented by the fact that Islam views itself, like Christianity, as a pan-ethnic religion meant for all peoples in all countries. It therefore has been willing to employ violence on a massive scale, as illustrated by the first century of its existence, when the Islamic empire conquered much of the known world.”[16]

“Because Muhammad is himself the measuring stick of morality, his actions are not judged according to an independent moral standard but rather establish what the standard for Muslims properly is.” [17]

#### **Below is what the Prophet Muhammad taught:[18]**

##### **Volume 7, Book 62, Number 88; Narrated Ursa:**

The Prophet wrote the (marriage contract) with Aisha while she was six years old and consummated his marriage with her while she was nine years old and she remained with him for nine years (i.e. till his death).

##### **Volume 8, Book 82, Number 795; Narrated Anas:**

The Prophet cut off the hands and feet of the men belonging to the tribe of Uraina and did not cauterize (their bleeding limbs) till they died.

##### **Volume 2, Book 23, Number 413; Narrated Abdullah bin Umar:**

The Jews {of Medina} brought to the Prophet a man and a woman from amongst them who have committed (adultery) illegal sexual intercourse. He ordered both of them to be stoned (to death), near the place of offering the funeral prayers beside the mosque.

##### **Volume 9, Book 84, Number 57; Narrated Ikrima:**

Some Zanadiqa (atheists) were brought to Ali {the fourth Caliph} and he burnt them. The news of this event, reached Ibn 'Abbas who said, 'If I had been in his place, I would not have burnt them, as Allah's Apostle forbade it, saying, 'Do not punish anybody with Allah's punishment (fire).' I would have killed them according to the statement of Allah's Apostle, "Whoever changes

judge on the last day.”[24] Another good way to build bridges is through the belief in Mary and Jesus. Muslims believe that Mary was sinless, and had a virgin birth. While they do not see Jesus as God, they do see Him as a great prophet and sinless as well. We may be able to pave more roads to help them understand, and possibly come to believe Jesus is God. We should not be afraid to even speak the truth to Muslims like St. Francis who went to the Caliphate of his time. He went right up to him, and spoke the truth of Jesus Christ. The Caliphate was so impressed he gave permission for the Franciscans to protect the Holy Sites in Jerusalem. We should never be afraid to share the faith to everyone, even those who are in stark contrast of beliefs.

#### **Loving Your Enemies – Lesson and Discussion**

*“But I say to you, love your enemies”*

Jesus gives His disciples a lesson on charity. This lesson will focus on how Jesus gives a course correction for everyone in what was being taught to the people.

#### **Where did “eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth” come from?**

This is from a passage in Leviticus which says, “Anyone who inflicts an injury on his neighbor shall receive the same in return. Limb for limb, eye for eye, tooth for tooth! The same injury that a man gives another shall be inflicted on him in return.”[25] This passage and commandment was to moderate vengeance; It in place so that there would not be an escalation in retribution. However, as we see today, Jesus instructs everyone to not seek any kind of retaliation.

**Why does Jesus say all this?** Jesus wants us to realize that every person is our brother. “a Christian must love friend and enemy without exception. The motive is the same for both: both are children of God, therefore all men are brothers –neighbors. Seen in this light, there is no reason for distinctions between one people and another, between one race and another. There are not even distinctions based on love or hatred, good or evil, kindness or injury, or insults or injustice suffered. Nor is it permissible, for any reason, to hate one’s brother, the son of the same Father, the object of the same paternal love.”[26] If everyone is made in the image and likeness of the same God the Father then we are all brothers of the same father. If we act as brother then we will go the extra mile as Jesus tells us to today. Will there be people who do not accept this, and still see us as their enemy? Yes. However, this does not mean we are to look

belated Western response to centuries of jihad than as an unprovoked, unilateral attack. Muslim rule in the Holy Land began in the second half of the 7th century during the Arab wave of jihad with the conquests of Damascus and Jerusalem by the second "rightly-guided Caliph," Umar. After the initial bloody jihad, Christian and Jewish life there was tolerated within the structures of the dhimma [paying taxes to live unharmed] and the Muslim Arabs generally permitted Christians abroad to continue to make pilgrimage to their holy sites, a practice which proved lucrative for the Muslim state. In the 11th century, the relatively benign Arab administration of the Holy Land was replaced with that of Seljuk Turks, due to civil war in the Islamic Empire. Throughout the latter half of the 11th century, the Turks waged war against the Christian Byzantine Empire and pushed it back from its strongholds in Antioch and Anatolia (now Turkey). In 1071, Byzantine forces suffered a crushing defeat at the Battle of Manzikert in what is now Eastern Turkey. The Turks resumed the jihad in the Holy Land, abusing, robbing, enslaving, and killing Christians there and throughout Asia Minor. They threatened to cut off Christendom from its holiest site, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, rebuilt under Byzantine stewardship after it was destroyed by Caliph Al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah in 1009. It was in this context of a renewed jihad in the Middle East that the Roman Pope, Urban II, issued a call in 1095 for Western Christians to come to the aid of their Eastern cousins (and seems to have harbored the hope of claiming Jerusalem for the Papacy after the Great Schism with Eastern Christianity in 1054). This "armed pilgrimage," in which numerous civilians as well as soldiers took part, would eventually become known years later as the First Crusade."<sup>[23]</sup>

The true crusades were the only ones issued by the Pope, and were carried out later, by other countries and not the Catholic Church. By 1271, all the lands that Christendom helped protect were retaken by the Muslims.

**How are we to treat Muslims?** We are to treat them as the Gospel has told us today. We are to treat Muslims just how we are to treat Protestants, Jewish people, atheists, and any other people who have different faith views. We look to seek ecumenism, and find ways to bring them into the fullness of truth. "The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind's

his Islamic religion, then kill him."

**Volume 1, Book 2, Number 25; Narrated Abu Huraira:**

Allah's Apostle was asked, 'What is the best deed?' He replied, 'To believe in Allah and His Apostle (Muhammad)'. The questioner then asked, 'What is the next (in goodness)?' He replied, 'To participate in Jihad (religious fighting) in Allah's Cause.'"

Finally, the last words of Mohammad were, "Fight all men until they say 'there is no god but Allah'".

**What happened to the followers of Jesus and Muhammad after their master's death?** Muhammad died in 632AD. After his death you have:

Abu Bakr (632-634) – Sunni leader  
 Umar (634-644)  
 Uthman (644-656)  
 Ali (656-661) – Shiite leader

Sunni Muslims (which consists of 90% of the total Muslim population) of Islam say Abu is the rightful successor. Shiite Muslims (which consists of 10% of the total Muslim population) of Islam say Ali was the rightful successor. Just within 24 short years there are two major divisions based on the question of who is the valid successor.

Without a solid leader to set a standard of orthodox true teaching everything is left to interpretation of the Koran and Sunna and there is no unified body to interpret. With not central authority to interpret, anything goes, even extreme Jihad, other doctrines, and abuses. Protestants, with "scripture alone" also have no authority or tradition from which to interpret Scripture and this has led the faithful to division and various contradicting teachings.

After the death of Christ it was clear, Saint Peter was the successor of Christ. The major divisions in Christianity have been over Papal Authority, but it took 1000 years for the Primacy of Peter, the central authority, to be challenged, not 24 short years, as is the case with Islam. To this day there is no central authority in Islam.

**Islam and Peace – Lesson and Discussion**

*“You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.”*

**Which religion (Christian or Islam) is a peaceful religion?**

The third successor of Muhammad, Caliph Omar (634-644) reined only two years after Mohammed’s death. Caliph Omar said, “It behooves us to devour the Christians and our sons to devour their descendants, so long as any of them remain on the earth.”[19] Even to this day we have Islam leaders calling for the destruction of Christians: “Very soon, Allah willing, Rome will be conquered, just like Constantinople...Today, Rome is the Capital of the Catholics, or the crusader capital, which has declared its hostility to Islam, and has planted the brothers of apes and pigs in Palestine...in order to prevent the reawakening of Islam – This capital of theirs will be an advanced post for the Islamic conquests, which will spread through Europe in its entirety, and then will turn to the two Americas, and even Eastern Europe.”[20]

While Islam does allow some tolerance, it is the only religion with its own developed doctrine, theology, and legal system mandating warfare against unbelievers, and their subjugation as inferiors under the Muslims. Islam is a religion of peace if you redefine peace. Peace in the Islamic context means rule of the Islamic Law over the world, which denies basic rights. This is certainly not the peace of God, and the peace that the apostles and saints have taught and preached about. Peace to Islam is to destroy pagans or convert, and if someone is an infidel they are either to be killed, convert, or pay taxes and submit to Islamic Law. As we read in the Gospel Reading, it is crystal clear what Jesus’ true motives and teachings are when someone attacks us. We are called to be non-violent.

**[\[See also Link to Liturgy Lesson – Peace\]](#)**

**If Islam is violent, why are so many Muslims peaceful?** It is because people in their very nature our wanting peace and non-violence. It is also because people do not learn and believe their founders origins. Many who work for Planned Parenthood are either ignorant of or want to ignore the beliefs of their founder, Margret Sanger, who was a racist and believed in eugenics (the belief that other races other than whites are inferior). There are many who deny the beliefs and practices of their faith. These people we call hypocrites. There are those who profess the Catholic faith, but do not follow the beliefs of the faith (i.e. uses

contraception, endorses abortion, etc.) There are hypocrites everywhere. For Muslims, they are suppose to embark in jihad, but many of them do not, “Especially in the West, Muslims here are more likely to be attracted by Western ways (which explains why they are here) and less likely to act violently against the society to which they may have fled from an Islamic tyranny abroad. However, in any given social context, as Islam takes greater root -- increasing numbers of followers, the construction of more mosques and "cultural centers," etc. -- the greater the likelihood that some number of its adherents will take its violent precepts seriously. This is the problem that the West faces today.”[21]

**What about the violent passages in the Bible?** First, when we say “violent” passages we are speaking of only the Old Testament. Even within the Old Testament, the term “violent passages” is too broad. There are violent passages, but it was because it was speaking of the history of the battles and wars. “the violent passages in the Bible certainly do not amount to a standing order to commit violence against the rest of the world. Unlike the Quran, the Bible is a huge collection of documents written by different people at different times in different contexts, which allows for much greater interpretative freedom. The Quran, on the other hand, comes exclusively from one source: Muhammad. It is through the life of Muhammad that the Quran must be understood, as the Quran itself says. His wars and killings both reflect and inform the meaning of the Quran. Furthermore, the strict literalism of the Quran means that there is no room for interpretation when it comes to its violent injunctions. As it is through the example of Christ, the "Prince of Peace," that Christianity interprets its scriptures, so it is through the example of the warlord and despot Muhammad that Muslims understand the Quran.”[22]

**What about the Crusades?** The Crusades is one of the most misunderstood historical events of all time. Revisionist’s history has completely made the true events become fuzzy. Again, there is too much information to convey in just a simple paragraph, but here are the main points.

**Why did the crusades begin?** “In both the Western academia and media as well as in the Islamic world, the Crusades are viewed as wars of aggression fought by bloody-minded Christians against peaceful Muslims. While the Crusades were certainly bloody, they are more accurately understood as a